

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (new): A method for manufacturing a mat, comprising the steps of:
providing a layer that comprises volumized strands, yarns or twists;
providing at least one further layer formed of fibers; and
connecting the layers by stitching.

Claim 14 (new): The method according to claim 13, wherein non-volumized as well as volumized strands, yarns or twists are placed on top of each other in layers, on a conveyor belt, the layers then being stitched together.

Claim 15 (new): The method according to claim 14, wherein the fibers or the strands, yarns or twists formed therefrom are placed by cutting continuous fibers, continuous strands, continuous yarns or continuous twists.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to claim 13, 14 or 15, wherein the layers are formed by fibers, strands, yarns or twists that are arranged parallel to the surface of the mat.

Claim 17 (new): The method according to claim 13, 14 or 15, wherein the fibers, strands, yarns or twists provided for the layer structure have a length of between 5 to 200 mm and/or the hollow microbodies used for volumization have an average diameter of 20 to 300 µm.

Claim 18 (new): The method according to claim 13, 14 or 15, wherein the central ply as well as the surface plies are formed of glass fibers.

Claim 19 (new): The method according to claim 13, 14 or 15, wherein the mat is introduced into a mold, and hardenable resins are introduced into the mold for manufacturing a fiber-reinforced molded article.

Claim 20 (new): A product made according to the method of claim 13 comprising a central ply of volumized strands, yarns, twists, as well as surface plies of non-volumized fibers that are stitched together.

Claim 21 (new): A product according to claim 20, wherein the fibers, strands, yarns or twists are arranged parallel to the surface.

Claim 22 (new): A product according to claim 20, wherein the fibers, strands, yarns or twists are formed exclusively from glass fibers.

Claim 23 (new) An apparatus for manufacturing a mat according to claim 13, consisting of three cutters arranged behind one another that are disposed above a conveyor belt, as well as of means for stitching cut fibers, strands, yarns or twists placed on the conveyor belt that come from the cutters.

Claim 24 (new): The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein volumized strands, yarns or twists are fed to the cutter arranged in the middle, and non-volumized strands, yarns or twists are fed to the other two cutters.